

REMARKS

Claims 6-7 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Claims 2 and 5 are canceled. Claim 6 is independent.

Applicant elects species IV (Fig. 5) with traverse. At least claims 6 and 7 read on this specie.

Applicant respectfully submits that the subject matter of all claims 1-7 is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one group of claims would necessarily encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that the search and examination of the entire application could be performed without serious burden.

M.P.E.P. § 803 clearly states that “[i]f the search and examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on its merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions” (emphasis added). Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner has clearly failed to provide a prima facie showing of a serious burden by failing to provide “by appropriate explanation of separate classification, or separate status in the art, or a different field of search” (M.P.E.P. § 803).

Applicant respectfully submit that the policy requiring examination of an entire application even though it may include distinct inventions, should be applied in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicant and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction

requirement and to examine all claims in this application.

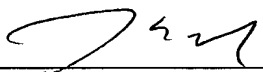
Applicant respectfully submits that claims 6-7, all the claims presently pending in the Application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the Application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

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